Production of coir beds and pillows

579. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Institute of Coir Technology, Bangalore has started production of rubberised Coir and Pillows;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the unusual delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central Institute of Coir Technology, Bangalore has been set up by the Board to give particular attention to Research activities in Brown Fibre Sector. The Central Institute of Coir Technology being a Research Institute does not undertake production of rubberised coir beds and pillows. There are no facilities for undertaking production of rubberised coir beds and pillows at this Institute.

Setting up of salt producing unit near Kandla Port

580. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a multi-national agency has been permitted to set up a salt producing unit on the land opposite to Kandla Port Trust;

(b) whether the Port authorities had earlier rejected the proposal; and

(c) what are the reasons for revising the earlier decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) A letter of permission has been issued to M/s. Cargill Southeast Asia Ltd., Singapore, in August, 1992 to set up a 100% Export Oriented Unit in Kutch District of Gujarat for manufacture of 10 lakh tonnes of solar salt per annum with the condition that entire (100%) production shall be exported to General Currency Area/Hard Currency Area Countries. The party had later on approached the Kandla Port Trust for allotment of 15,000 acres of land which was not approved by the Kandla Port Trust Board.

Introduction of "Zen" model by MUL

581. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maruti Udyog Ltd. is introducting a new car model "Zen";

(b) what is the estimated cost of this car; and

(c) what are the prospects of its exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ex-factory price of the car is Rs. 2.81 lakhs.

(c) The car has been designed to be sold in the EEC and other West European countries through the sales network of Suzuki Motor Corporation. It is expected that the sales could reach a level of about 50,000 vehicles per annum by 1997-98.

Recession in Industrial Sector

582. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a serious recession in the industrial sector;

(b) whether this recession has affected a number of core industries; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) According to the latest quick estimates of Index of Industrial Production as compiled by CSO, the overall rate of growth during 1992-93 was 1.3% as compared to (−) 0.2% in 1991-92.

(c) The recent policy initiatives taken by the Government since July '91 and the measures taken in the Union Budgets 1992-93 & 93-94